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NEWS RELEASE

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White House Announces Nominees for Northern, Southern California Judgeships

SAN FRANCISCO – The White House has announced President Obama’s nominations of a state court judge from Santa Clara County and a federal magistrate judge in San Diego to fill vacancies on two federal trial courts in California. The nominations were made May 20.

Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Edward J. Davila was nominated to serve as a district judge on the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. Judge Davila, 57, was nominated to fill a judgeship vacant since October 30, 2009, when District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel took senior status.

Magistrate Judge Anthony J. Battaglia was nominated to serve as a district judge on the U. S. District Court for the Southern District of California. Judge Battaglia, 61, who has chambers in San Diego, was nominated to fill a judgeship vacant since October 25, 2009, when District Judge M. James Lorenz took senior status.

Judge Davila was appointed to the state court bench in 2001 by Gov. Gray Davis. He currently sits on the Santa Clara County Family Court in Sunnyvale. Prior to coming onto the state bench, Judge Davila had been in private practice in Santa Clara and had worked as a deputy public defender for Santa Clara County. He is a past president of the Santa Clara County Bar Association and the Santa Clara County La Raza Lawyers.

A Palo Alto native, Judge Davila received his B.A. in 1976 from San Diego State University and his J.D. in 1979 from the University of California's Hastings College of the Law.

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California had 7,341 new case filings in 2009. The court is authorized 14 permanent judgeships, and currently has three vacancies.

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Judge Battaglia has served as a magistrate judge for the Southern District of California since November 5, 1993. He is currently in his third eight-year term after being reappointed in 2001 and 2009. Prior to coming onto the federal bench, he had been a civil litigator in San Diego specializing in plaintiff's personal injury and death claims, and maritime personal injury law.

Judge Battaglia received his B.A. from United States International University in 1971 and his J.D. from California Western School of Law in 1974.

In addition to his service on the bench, Judge Battaglia has been active in judicial education and governance. He presently serves in an observer capacity on the Judicial Conference of the United States, the national governing body for federal courts. He previously served on the JCUS Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules of Procedure, 2003 to 2009. He is a longtime member and past president of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association. He also served on and chaired the Magistrate Judges Executive Board, an advisory group to the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, governing body for federal courts in the West.

Judge Battaglia has authored numerous papers on law and procedures and participated in many legal education programs at the local, regional and national levels.

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California had 7,958 new case filings in 2009. The court is authorized 13 district judgeships and currently has three vacancies.

Federal district court judges, appointed under Article III of the Constitution, are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior. Their current annual salary is \$174,000.

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